

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

1-101. (Canceled)

102. (Currently Amended) A device for treatment of an intervertebral disc wall tissue having an aperture, said device comprising material capable of tissue ingrowth, said device comprising:

a main body portion having a distal and a proximal end,
an extension having an axis projecting along a respective reference plane,
said reference plane extending substantially laterally from the main body portion;
wherein said extension is constructed such that said axis can flexibly
deflect from its respective reference plane,
wherein the main body portion does not have any said extension at its
proximal end; and
wherein said device further comprises a fixation element that passes into
or through said tissue surrounding said aperture.

103. (Currently Amended) The device of claim 102, wherein said fixation element further comprising comprises one or more surgical sutures.

104. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 103, wherein said sutures are biodegradable.

105. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 103, wherein said sutures further comprise at least one knot.

106. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said main body portion is shaped to form a compatible fit with at least a portion of the edges of an aperture in an intervertebral disc wall.

107. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said at least one extension is of substantially uniform thickness.

108. (Canceled).

109. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said fixation element comprises one or more barbs.

110. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said fixation element comprises one or more tension bands.

111. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said fixation element comprises one or more staples.

112. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said main body portion and at least one extension are formed as a unitary device.

113. (Canceled).

114. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102 wherein said device is comprised of one or more biocompatible or bioresorbable materials.

115. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 114, wherein said device is comprised of a matrix or mesh of biocompatible or bioresorbable fibers.

116. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 114, wherein said device is comprised of a biocompatible or bioresorbable membrane.

117. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 114, wherein said device is comprised of a biocompatible or bioresorbable fabric.

118. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 114, wherein said device comprises a biodegradable substrate.

119. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 114, wherein said device comprises an expandable polytetrafluoroethylene (ePTFE).

120. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 114, wherein said device comprises a polymer material.

121. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 120, wherein said device comprises a polymeric sheet.

122. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 120, wherein said device comprises a polymeric fabric.

123. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 120, wherein said device comprises a polymeric mesh.

124. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 120, wherein said device comprises polymeric fibers.

125. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said device comprises a collagenous material.

126. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said device comprises hygroscopic material.

127. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said device comprises materials to facilitate regeneration of disc tissue.

128. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said device comprises bioactive silica-based material.

129. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said device comprises a growth factor.

130. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102, wherein the device is flexibly resilient.

131. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102, wherein at least a portion of the device is porous.

132. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102, wherein at least a portion of the device is non-porous.

133. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102, wherein said at least one extension is reversibly deformable to allow, in use, insertion into an aperture of an intervertebral disc and to subsequently expand conforming said device to the shape of a portion of the inner wall of an annulus.

134-136. (Canceled).

137. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 102, having a first and a second extension.

138. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 137, wherein said respective axes of said first and second extensions lie in reference planes oriented in a range of 0° to 60° to each other when said extensions are undeflected.

139. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 138, wherein said respective axes of said first and second extensions lie in the same reference plane when said extensions are undeflected.

140. (Canceled).

141. (Currently Amended) ~~[[A]] The device for treatment of an intervertebral disc wall of claim 102, further comprising:~~

~~a main body portion;
—— at least one extension having an axis projecting along a respective reference plane, said reference plane extending substantially laterally from the main body portion;~~

~~wherein each of said at least one extensions is constructed such that said axis can flexibly deflect from its respective reference plane, and~~
at least one receptacle configured to receive a fixation element.

142. (Previously Presented) The device of claim 141, wherein said at least one receptacle comprises a slot.

143-182. (Canceled).

183. (New) The device of claim 102, further comprising a patch.

184. (New) The device of claim 183, wherein said patch comprises human muscle fascia.